



Information technology initiatives

Purpose

Postsecondary education is dependent on a solid technology infrastructure for the transmission of information. As technology continues to transform teaching and learning in and out of the classroom, institutions are becoming increasingly dependent on high-performance networks capable of reliably moving and sharing vast amounts of data.

Proposal

The Council requests \$2.5 million in 2008-09 and recurring in 2009-10 for three initiatives to innovate and educate through technology.

How it works

The Kentucky Postsecondary Education Network (KPEN), a network specifically designed for postsecondary education and research requirements and applications, will receive \$1.2 million. KPEN accommodates high-demand, high-performance Internet and Internet2 student and faculty users and provides an easy mechanism for expansion of network services. KPEN is a part of the new K-20 network, the Kentucky Education Network (KEN),

which connects all postsecondary, K-12, workforce, and library locations. Through KEN, Kentucky became the 34th state to connect the entire K-20 education community to Internet2, a high bandwidth national network dedicated to education and research. Requested funds will allow for expanded KPEN bandwidth for postsecondary education institutions, enhancing the ability of both postsecondary and K-12 institutions to use Internet and Internet2 applications.

The Kentucky Virtual Library will receive \$450,000 to support continued access to electronic databases. As one of its many services, KYVL offers Kentucky citizens free access to over 43 licensed indexing, abstract, and full-text databases. Last year alone, over 22 million database searches were performed. Through the existence of KYVL and the leveraging of negotiated statewide contracts, KYVL partners save \$10 million annually. These requested funds will support inflationary pressures on KYVL's electronic databases to continue to provide Kentuckians free access to these valuable resources.

To allow teachers and faculty to share standards-based digital content to improve their courses, \$900,000 will support the creation of the Kentucky K-20 Learning Content Repository. As networked learning becomes the norm, Kentucky teachers and faculty need to redesign course content to provide learning anytime, anywhere. Currently, teachers and faculty are building or licensing learning content as needed, but there is no structure for them to share content. The sharing of content eliminates duplication of effort, reduces costs, leverages investments, enhances the quality of digital content, and improves teaching and learning.

Highlights

- New funds of \$2.7 million in 2008-09 and recurring in 2009-10.
- Supports the ever-growing need for reliable technology and expanded networks to support teaching and research.